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SBI REVISES DOWN EXPECTED GDP CONTRACTION TO 16.5%

State Bank of India on Monday revised downwards its May report forecasting a 20% slump in GDP in the April-June qtr

COST RATIONALISATION IMPROVES OUTLOOK

SBI's research report Ecowrap revised its earlier forecast on account of better-than-expected results of some financial and non-financial companies. "Revenue decline of listed companies has been far outstripped by cost rationalisation thereby not impacting margins," the report said. SBI's Business Disruption Index has also shown a decline in recent weeks

GROSS STATE GDP TO FALL BY 16.8%

- The report highlighted that Covid-19 has penetrated rural areas, which contribute significantly to the gross state GDP (GSDP)
- The report estimates total GSDP will fall by 16.8% in Q1
- State-wise analysis indicates that top 10 states accounted for 73.8% of total GDP loss | P12

14.1%

DECLINE IN CORPORATE GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA) IN 1ST QUARTER OF FY21

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Apex court rejects petitions to defer NEET, JEE Mains

KANU SARDA & SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday refused to defer the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and JEE Main Exams.

"Life cannot be stopped. We have to move ahead with all safeguards," said a bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra.

The observation came on a batch of pleas by students seeking the exam dates be postponed till normalcy returns.

"Are you (students) ready to waste one whole year? Covid may continue for a year more. Do you know what the loss to the country and peril to the students is?" the bench asked.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta representing the National Testing Agency, which conducts NEET and JEE (Main), informed the court that all safeguards would be taken for conducting the exams. JEE is scheduled from September 1 to 6, while the NEET is slated for September 13.

Meanwhile, senior officials in the Union Education Ministry said the examinations will be conducted as per plan as "there is no alternative way of evaluating the merit of students for the high-stake examinations".

Students wanted these admission tests to be cancelled, saying such gatherings would put them at risk of catching the virus.

"We are going ahead with the examination as per the schedule announced earlier and there is no question of rethinking," said Vineet Joshi, Director, National Testing Agency.

He added all necessary precautions will be taken to ensure students' safety.

"JEE (Main) is already staggered over a week and the number of centres for NEET has been increased to avoid crowding of students and to ensure social distancing norms are followed," he said.

Another official in the ministry noted these tests define the careers and lives of lakhs of students and their competence will decide if they can pursue these highly sought-after technical courses. This year the CBSE cancelled some Class 12 papers, which could not be held due to nationwide lockdown, and rated students on the basis of their performance in previous papers. Following this, IITs and NITs have decided not to count their performance in the boards.

"In such a scenario, holding of the admission tests is even more crucial," the official said.

Earlier, along with the performance in JEE (Main), both IITs and NITs used to demand either 75% mark in the board examinations or a place in the Top 20 percentile of their respective boards.

Rain havoc continues, North K'taka worst hit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

INCESSANT rain and overflowing rivers continued to disrupt normal life in many parts of the state on Monday. Several villages, bridges, roads and farms were flooded, cutting off connectivity in many areas.

In flood-prone areas of North Karnataka, authorities alerted people to move to safer locations as the outflow from dams is expected to increase because of continuous rain and rising water levels. Flood warning has been issued in Raichur, Yadgir, Bagalkot and parts of Vijayapura, as water levels continue to rise at the Almatti dam.

Heavy rain in the Western Ghats along the Karnataka-Maharashtra-Goa border and the overflowing Krishna river and its tributaries caused flooding in its basin areas of Mumbai-Karnataka region. The movement of trains on the Hubballi-Londa route was affected due to a landslide at Shivthan railway station in Khanapur. The state highway connecting Belagavi and Bagalkot caved in, cutting off bus services towards Vijayapura. Many bridges in Raichur and Yadgir district were submerged.

People in over 20 villages in Gadag district were asked to move to safer places after water was released from the Malaprabha dam. P5

A boy wades through knee-deep water at an inundated cattle market in Gokak on Monday | ASHISHKRISHNA PENDSE

Wherever necessary, UAPA that deals with terrorism and related activities will be invoked. Our investigation has no political overtones.
Basavaraj Bommai, Karnataka Home Minister

UAPA was invoked recently as more facts about the incident have emerged during the investigation
Kamal Pant, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner

STATE TO INVOKE UAPA AGAINST DJ HALLI VIOLENCE ACCUSED

Goonda Act too will be slapped wherever it is applicable: CMO

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka police, who have decided to take stringent action against perpetrators of violence at Devarajeevanahalli in Bengaluru on August 11, have invoked the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against the accused.

Taking a cue from the Delhi police, following riots at the national capital earlier this year, Karnataka Director General and Inspector General of Police Praveen Sood informed Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Monday that sections under UAPA have been invoked in the case. The initial FIRs, however, only included various sections under IPC and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

"UAPA was invoked recently as more facts about the incident have emerged during the investigation," Police Commissioner Kamal Pant told *The New Indian Express*.

"Wherever necessary, UAPA that deals with terrorism and related activities will be invoked. Our investigation has no political overtones. We are going by law and merits of the case. Our officials are conducting a fair investigation," said Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai. While Pulakeshinagar MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy hasn't named anyone in his complaint and has said he would add the names when he can, the police department has its own witnesses to identify the culprits, he added.

With Section 144 imposed after the August 11 violence, an otherwise busy DJ Halli market wears a deserted look in Bengaluru on Monday | MEGHANA SASTRY

AKHANDA MEETS BSY, SEEKS MORE SECURITY

Area Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy, whose residence was vandalised in the violence of August 11 night, met CM B S Yediyurappa and is said to have sought more protection. Currently, Murthy as an MLA has two gunmen assigned by the government, but has sought additional security from the State Reserve Police Force. He also reiterated his request to transfer the case to the CBI.

State to approach HC for claim commissioner

At a meeting of senior police officials, legal officers and the Chief Minister on Monday, it was decided to approach the Karnataka High Court, seeking the appointment of a 'Claim Commissioner' as per the Supreme Court directive to assess the damage caused to private and public property and to recover it from the 'culprits,' a statement from the Chief Minister's Office said. The State will also appoint a team of three special public prosecutors to conduct the case.

"The invocation of Goonda Act will also be considered by the SIT (already formed to probe the case) wherever its provisions are applicable," the Chief Minister's Office said.

Bommai, Chief Secretary TM Vijaya Bhasker, and Advocate-General Prabhuling Navadagi, among others, attended the meeting. P3

47 Covid-19 patients shifted from KIMS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a case of quick crisis management, 47 critical Covid-19 patients admitted to the Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) in Basavanagudi and requiring oxygen were shifted to Victoria and Bowring hospitals, and Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases on Monday night, after a delay in the supply of high-flow oxygen cylinders to the hospital.

Hospital sources said that two high-flow oxygen cylinders had been ordered, which were to reach the hospital on Saturday. But only one was delivered, while the other was expected by Monday afternoon. When the cylinder did not arrive even by 9.15 pm, the doctors and authorities decided to move the 47 patients to other facilities.

Veerabhadra Swamy, joint commissioner, BBMP (South Zone), under whom KIMS Hospital falls, said, "There was no oxygen supply since Sunday. We are collecting more details from the hospital."

Chandra Mohan, in charge of '104' ambulances, said, "We got a call from the hospital around 7.30 pm. We organised 45 vehicles immediately and shifted 47 patients." P5

Ambulances line up at KIMS Hospital to shift patients to other facilities in Bengaluru on Monday | SHRIRAM BK

MAESTRO NO MORE

Classical music doyen Pandit Jasraj passes away

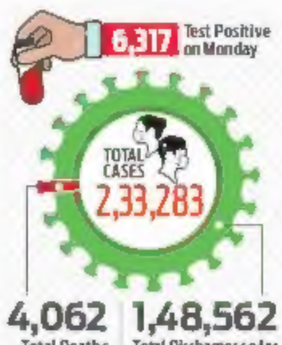
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A husky yet pure, ringing voice that could blend the sensuous with the most austere formal elements. A musicality that could attain the sublime while not being averse to pleasing the common ear. It was no wonder that Pandit Jasraj, who died of a heart attack today in New Jersey, at the ripe and fulfilled age of 90, had deigned to match the greatest of the twentieth century while being marked out in public consciousness as the ultimate symbol of the classical vocalist.

This was no small feat—for it was a musical epoch of astounding variety and depth. Film music ruled the radio. And in the classical sphere, some of the world's greatest musicians—practitioners of among the most structurally difficult of the arts—strode the land. And yet, Pandit Jasraj's special gayaki managed to elevate him—and his Mewati gharana—to the very astral regions of the Hindustani classical musical firmament. Born to a musical family based out of Haryana, with an accomplished but ultimatey lesser known vocalist elder brother in Pandit Maniram, it fell upon Jasraj to carve a niche for himself in the public mind in a way none of his forebears had.

PT JASRAJ 28-01-1930 ● 17-08-2020

It was a mark of his sheer vocalism—and his eclectic musical ethos—that allowed him to accomplish this. Soaring tans, rippling sargams strung out to near-perfection, but also experimentation in the form of his 'Jasrangi' style of duets with a female voice. The devotionalism of his Mewati school also sat well, in the final years, with the popular demand for bhakti.



• FULL COVERAGE P4

EXPRESS READ

Security forces kill 2 LeT militants in J&K

Srinagar: Hours after LeT militants carried out an attack which left two CRPF jawans and a policeman dead in Baramulla on Monday, security forces killed two of them in an encounter. DGP Dilbag Singh said one of them is Sajad Haider, the number one in the LeT outfit in north Kashmir. P10

CET results to be out on August 20: DyCM

Bengaluru: CET results will be announced on August 20, a record 19 days after the completion of the examination. Fees and seat matrix ratio for the engineering courses will remain the same as last year's, Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said in a release. P2

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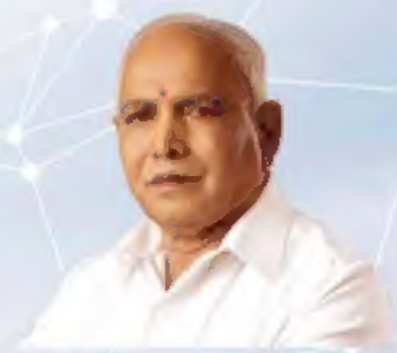

Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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